

WET TROPICS FACTS

Wet Tropics Bioregion is a **World Heritage Site**, listed 30 years ago in 1988

The Wet Tropics native forests form part of the **globally ecologically rare** trio River-Rainforest-Reef

Archaic species **Cassowary**, a Keystone Species, sole seed disperser of more than 70 biodiverse flora species, listed as ENDANGERED

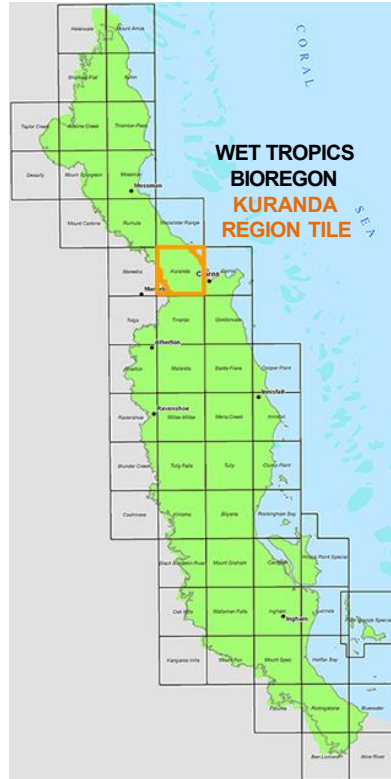
Human land use pressure continues unabated, causing severe fragmentation of essential habitats and ecological corridors

Only 20-25% of former cassowary habitat remains with much of it still under pressure

Wet Tropics Bioregion is a **remnant from Gondwana** dating back to around 185 million years ago and contains one of the most complete and diverse living records of the major stages in the evolution of land plants and later song birds

Kuranda Region, a **biodiversity hotspot** with new species such as the Myola Palm and the Kuranda Tree Frog, showing "Evolution in action" as the north and south Wet Tropics re-joined after the last ice age ended around 18,000 years ago.

Freehold Wet Tropics land in Kuranda Region homes over **55 EPBC threatened species**



PROTECT YOUR LAND FOREVER!

- How does your land rate?**
SEE MAP INSIDE FOR
- DIN DIN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR**
- ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT**
YES, CASSOWARY ESSENTIAL
- REMNANT NATIVE FOREST**
YES, RAINFORESTS
- RAINFOREST CREEK OR EPHEMERAL WATERBODY**
YES
- STRATEGIC CORRIDOR**
YES, CRITICAL CASSOWARY

PICTURED: **ECOLOGICAL SUPER-HIGHWAY** RAINFOREST CREEKBED ON FREEHOLD LAND, KURANDA ENVIROLINK CORRIDOR

VERSION 4

The Kuranda Region Dilemma!

Looking at the **Wet Tropics Bioregion map** (above right) it's clear to see what scientists call a "pinchpoint" or "bottleneck" occurs from the top of the range at Kuranda and out west past Koah to Clohesy-Davies Ecotone Link Corridor. This fragile ecological land straddles the Barron river and was denuded of most forest within 100 years for pasture and agriculture.

Kuranda Region land is zoned Rural - Rural Residential and is currently in *Rainforest Recovery* mode – started 40 years ago with a new wave of residents keen on the forest and native wildlife. **The pressure from urbanisation is closing in fast.** Now is the correct time to secure outcomes for *strengthening the critical north-south ecological corridor* of the World Heritage Wet Tropics Bioregion. **Private landowners are critical to conservation outcomes in the corridor.**

What do the planning documents say?

In 2009, the Kuranda Region, including Koah and Speewah, were in most part denoted as **Regional Rural Landscape**. This categorisation recognised the inherent ecological qualities of the regional landscape and future planning orients towards this recognition, allowing low-impact rural land uses and moving away from residential subdivisions, due to the various high impacts of deforestation, domestic predatory animals (pets) and higher traffic volumes.

Far North Queensland Regional Plan 2009-2031 is explicit (after three expensive studies, including the Kuranda Range Road) that:

"Myola is not considered necessary for urban development in the life of the Regional plan."

Mareeba Shire Council Planning Scheme 2016 supports FNQ2031, above.

Distinguished Professor Bill Laurance says...

"On the Australian continent, we're talking about 1,000th of Australia's continental land area.

A major analysis which looked at the biogeographic and the biological uniqueness and irreplaceability of different ecosystems on the planet – this was over 173,000 different protected areas on the planet – ranked the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area as the 6th most critical and irreplaceable.

Of World Heritage Areas, it was the 2nd most critical and irreplaceable. I think this gives you global perspective on what we're talking about here.

Anybody, from anywhere on the planet, looking around would say this is absolutely critical biological and environmental real estate.

You would not want to risk it – from an International, from a global perspective – for lots of different reasons."

Connecting Corridors For Wet Tropics Wildlife

DID YOU KNOW you can get help to revegetate priority waterways and species-enrich your Recovering Rainforest ("regrowth") land? **Locals Kuranda Conservation Community Nursery and Kuranda Envirocare Nursery** grow a wide range of natives suitable for a range of plantings. **They can provide advice on your ecological landscape and the plants most suited.**

Grants can often be obtained to take care of the work involved in revegetation efforts.

NatureRefuges

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) can assist landholders to formally protect significant conservation values on their property under a nature refuge.

Nature refuges
A nature refuge is a voluntary covenant acknowledging a landholder's commitment to protect land with significant conservation values. A nature refuge agreement is a legally binding and registered document that is entered into between a landholder and the Queensland Government.

Nature refuge agreements
A nature refuge agreement is a legally binding document that is entered into between a landholder and the Queensland Government. It provides a framework for the sustainable management of a nature refuge and for the protection of its significant values.

Determining suitability
The area nominated for a nature refuge will be assessed for its suitability. The assessment process will take into account the condition of the land, current land uses and management practices, and proposed future uses.

Kuranda Region Voluntary Conservation Agreement Program

Rural, Rural Residential and Tenants in Common Landowners are invited to participate in this program to discuss their land on a case by case basis. Every rural title has its own unique set of ecological values. **Let's work together to achieve the best outcomes for this globally rare Wet Tropics cassowary corridor land.**

6/96
Kuranda Region Conservation Agreements Secured

Voluntary Land Conservation Options for Kuranda Region

Rainforest and associated native forests in the Wet Tropics Bioregion can not be *offset* to other locations. The *grow-zone* or *green-belt* is location specific and therefore conservation planning is crucial on freehold land in strategic positions.

Being guided by "Good Science" and "Good Sense"

"It is fundamentally important, 30 years on from World Heritage listing of the Wet Tropics of Queensland, to ensure that what remains is protected and that further incursions into the bioregion are tightly restrained. Government support for improving protection outcomes for remaining critical habitat on freehold land is the first vital step to protecting the bioregion for the future." Distinguished Professor Bill Laurance



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Website: www.kurandaregion.org/voluntary-conservation-agreement-program

Email: krcvap@kurandaregion.org

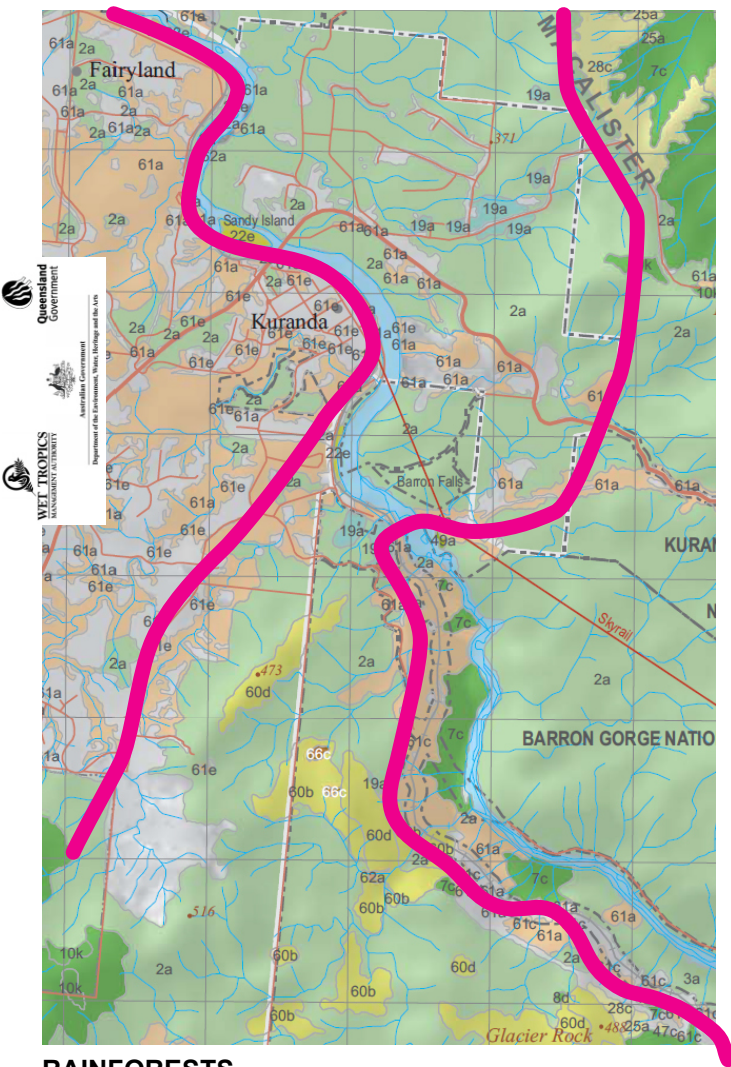
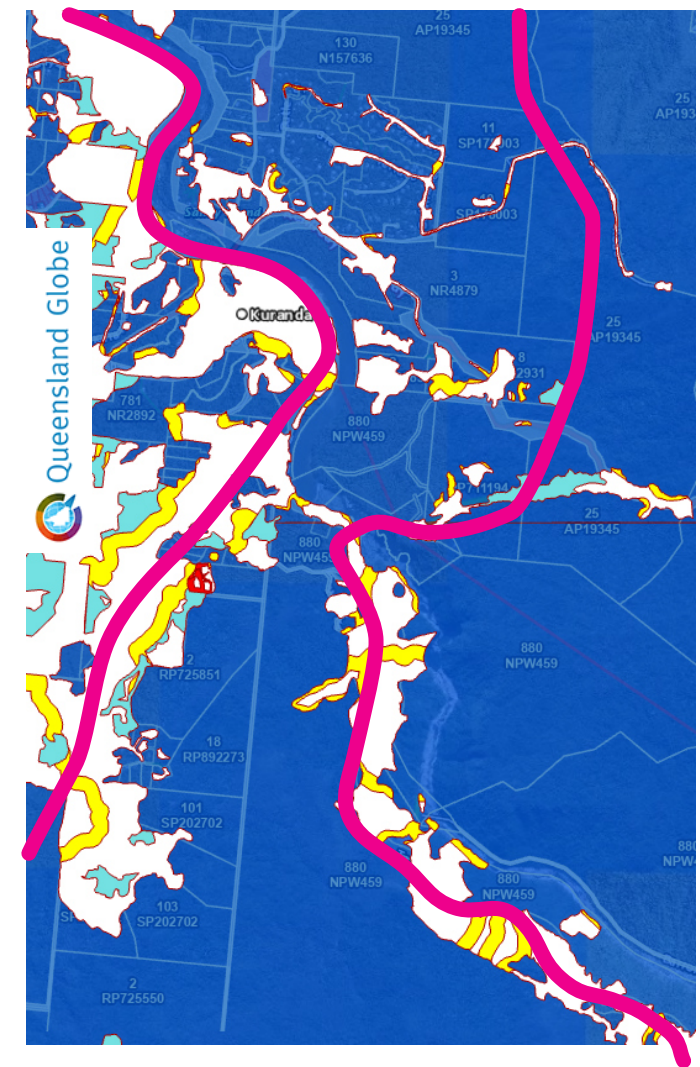
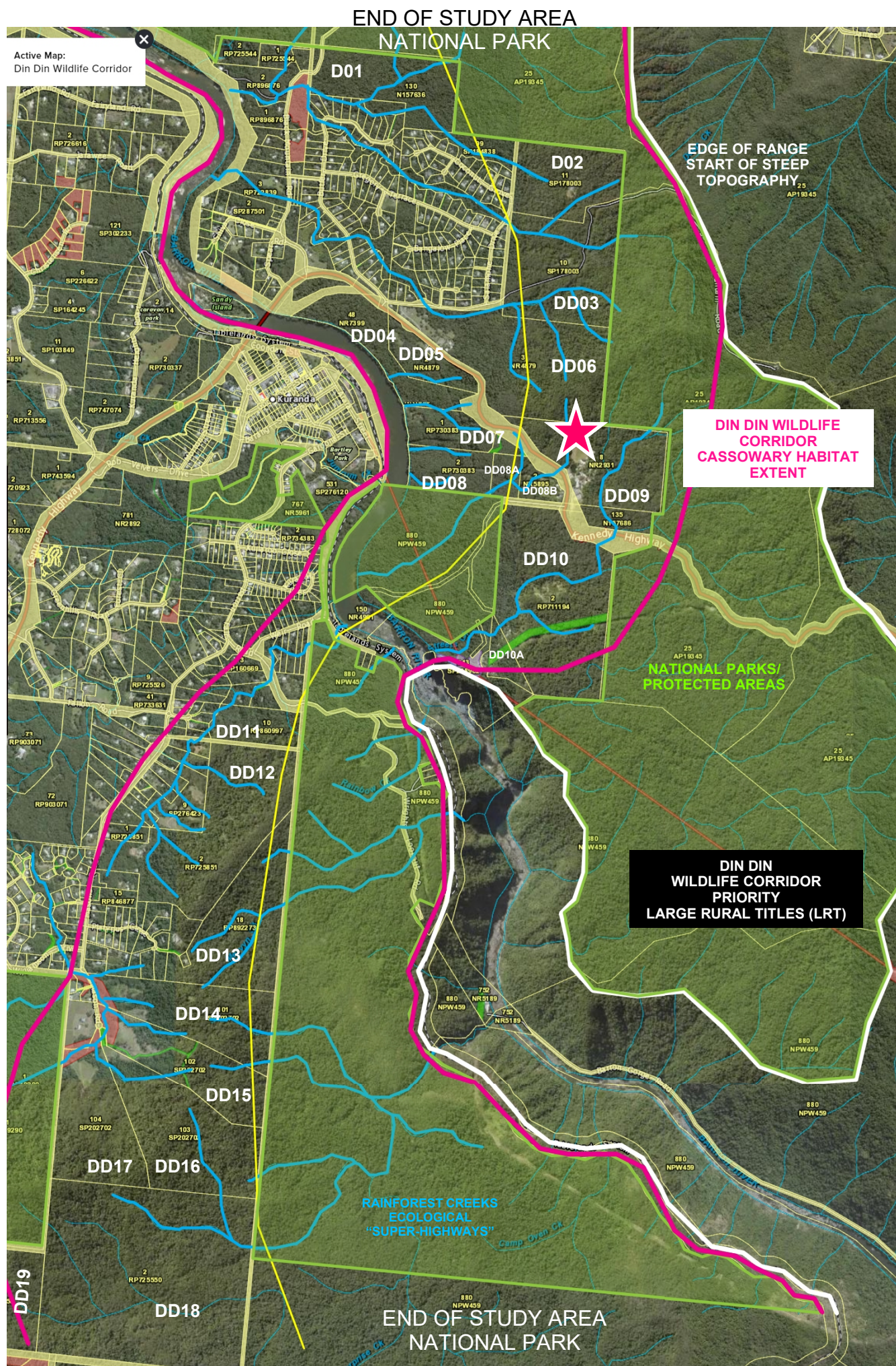
Landowners will decide the future of the north-south corridor

A land use *settlement pattern* was drawn up for Kuranda Region many decades ago, pre-dating our global recognition of the Wet Tropics Bioregion, now listed as a World Heritage property since 1988. The ensuing 30 years has brought a refined understanding of the important role ecology and biodiversity play in the overall health of our planet.

Kuranda Region needs proper planning in line with recognised ecological values.

An invitation to find out more...

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW TO PROTECT YOUR LAND IN YOUR WILL?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS ARE?
ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT FURTHER FRAGMENTATION OF OUR RAINFOREST?



- RVM category B - remnant vegetation
- RVM category C - high value regrowth
- RVM category R - reef-regrowth watercourse vegetation
- RVM category X - exempt clearing work on Freehold/Indigenous/Leasehold land

EPBC Matters of National Environment Significance
Postcode 4881, Kuranda Region:
55 threatened species

DIN DIN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR is characterised by excellent rainforest canopy of good quality mature Mesophyll vine forests. Where fragmented by human land-uses the remnant Secondary successional complexes are considered high value regrowth for cassowary essential habitat.

The Din Din Wildlife Corridor traverses from Kuranda National Park at the top of the Macalister Range escarpment joining freehold land at "Top of the Range" subdivisions and WHA adjoining Large Rural Titles. The corridor narrows considerably where it meets the Kennedy Highway with rainforest land deeply fragmented in this area from recurring land clearing / cattle pasture.

The protected area estate breaks across Kennedy Highway through private land to a fragmented National Park block before crossing the Barron River to the southern section of the corridor.

Above the Barron Falls, the corridor continues south to Barron Gorge National Park to Dinden National Park past Speewah. The narrow protected area is buffered to the west with excellent quality remnant rainforest on privately owned Large Rural Titles.

- RAINFORESTS**
- Mesophyll vine forests**
2a Very wet to moist lowlands to uplands on a variety of geologies.
 - Fan palm vine forests**
5a Mesophyll fan palm vine forest dominated by *Licuala ramsayi* var. *Ramsayi*. Wet and very lowlands to uplands on alluvium.
- SCLEROPHYLL AND SCLEROPHYLL RAINFOREST TRANSITIONS**
- Close Eucalyptus forests**
19a Closed *Corymbia torelliana* forest + *Corymbia intermedia* +/- *Eucalyptus tereticornis* subsp. *Tereticornis* +/- variable rainforest species. Wet to dry uplands on metamorphics, rhyolites and granites.
- SCLEROPHYLL FORESTS AND WOODLANDS**
- Syncarpia forests and woodlands**
60d Medium open *Syncarpia glomulifera* subsp. *Glomulifera* forest and woodland + *Allocasuarina torulosa* +/- *Eucalyptus intermedia* +/- *Allocasuarina littoralis*. Dry to very wet lowlands to highlands on a variety of geologies.
- VEGETATION COMPLEXES AND MOSAICS**
- Secondary successional complexes**
 - 61a Variable rainforest secondary successional forest complex. Very wet to dry lowlands to highlands on a variety of geologies.
 - 61e Variable communities of native vegetation with a significant component of exotic species in the canopy, understorey and/or ground cover. Wet and moist lowlands on a variety of geologies.

DIN DIN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR FLYTHROUGH: <https://youtu.be/AUVQbqGDc4>